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|---|----------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| <h1>TRANSMITTAL FORM</h1> <p>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</p> | Application Number   | 09/336,207             |               |
|   | Application Date     | June 18, 1999          |               |
|   | First Named Inventor | Robert McCracken       |               |
|   | Group Art Unit       | 3635                   |               |
|   | Examiner Name        | Yvonne M. Horton       |               |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission  | 27                   | Attorney Docket Number | 8594560/97020 |

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## SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Firm or Individual name | Timothy G. Hofmeyer, Esq., Davis, Brown, Koehn, Shors & Roberts, P.C. |
| Signature               | <i>Timothy G. Hofmeyer</i>  |
| Date                    | 7/30/01   |

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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| Typed or printed name  | Kristen T. McKern        |
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T.M.C.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of )

Robert McCracken )

Serial No. 09/336,207 )

Filed: June 18, 1999 )

For: SPANNING MEMBER WITH )  
CONVULUTED WEB, C-SHAPED )  
FLAGES, AND END PLATE )

Group Art Unit: 3635

Examiner: Yvonne M. Horton

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**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), a list of documents that may be material to the examination of this application is provided on the attached Form PTO-1449. Listed Documents A1 to A4 are U.S. and Japanese patents that may be relevant to the examination of the present application. Each item of information contained herein was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the instant Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. Copies of Documents A1 to A4 are enclosed herewith.

Documents for which the supplied date of publication lists the year of publication without the month were published sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date, so that the particular month of publication is not in issue. Pursuant to §609 of the MPEP, it is understood that the month of publication is not required when the particular month of publication is not in issue.

No inferences should be drawn that the attached list represents a comprehensive

investigation, or that any material disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention. In addition, none of the documents that have publication dates prior to the priority date of the above application anticipate the invention in this application.

The cited documents disclose numerous specific features. There has been no attempt to list each and every feature disclosed by each document. The Examiner is requested to review the documents and determine the extent of the materiality of the document disclosures with respect to the present invention. The translations of the foreign references are provided to the Examiner as forward to the Applicant by foreign patent counsel. Applicant makes no claim as to the accuracy of the translations provided.

The discussion of any art and the citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that the art or document disclosure is necessarily within the invention field of endeavor, that the art or document disclosure are necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that the art or document disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art as defined by the patent law with respect to the instant invention and application.

Also, there is reserved the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosures of the art and documents recited herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application.

The recitation herein of the art and documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence.



AI-A4

**United States Patents**

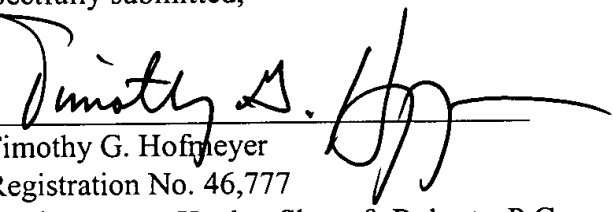
| <u>No.</u> | <u>U.S. Patent No.</u> | <u>Patent Date</u> | <u>Patentee</u> |
|------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| A1         | 4,292,782              | 10-06-1981         | Schaeffer       |
| A2         | 4,385,476              | 05-31-1983         | Slager          |

**Japanese Patent References**

| <u>No.</u> | <u>Japanese Reference No.</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| A3         | 46-11231                      | 1971        |
| A4         | 50-37226                      | 1975        |

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
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Enclosures:  
Form PTO-1449  
Prior Art



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